

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 07253 262132Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 526

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7253

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJ: MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF EDUARDO AND JULIO BUDNIK

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REPORTED BECAUSE OF  
LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS CASE MAY RECEIVE PUBLICITY IN  
UNITED STATES IN NEAR FUTURE.
2. LATE SATURDAY, JULY 24, RABBI ANGEL KREIMAN, CHIEF  
RABBI IN SANTIAGO, TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR URGENTLY TO  
INFORMED HIM OF MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF WEALTHY LOCAL  
JEWISH BUSINESSMEN AND JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADER, EDUARDO AND  
JULIO BUDNIK. KREIMAN TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS  
CALLING BECAUSE CARDINAL SILVA HAD TOLD HIM THAT  
"NO ONE ELSE COULD HELP HIM".
3. KREIMAN RELATED FOLLOWING STORY. ON THURSDAY, JULY  
22, THE BUDNIK BROTHERS WENT TO THEIR OFFICE IN SANTIAGO.  
THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE. WHEN THEIR DISAPPEARANCE  
WAS NOTICED, THEIR OFFICE WAS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN ROBBED,  
LOCKS BROKEN, AND 25,000 PESOS TAKEN. ABOUT THE SAME  
TIME, TWO UNKNOWN PERSONS WENT TO PARKING LOT WITH CAR  
DOCUMENTS AND REMOVED THEIR AUTOMOBILES, ONE REQUIRING  
A TAXI FOR TOWING PURPOSES.
4. WHEN FAMILIES LEARNED OF OCCURRENCE, THEY WENT TO  
LOCAL POLICE, WHO COULD PROVIDE NO INFORMATION. FOLLOWING  
DAY, JULY 23, THEY WENT TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE, SCHWEITZER,  
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 07253 262132Z

(HIMSELF JEWISH) WHO ALSO COULD PROVIDE NONE. DINA CHIEF

COLONEL CONTRERAS TOLD THEM THE BUDNIKS HAD NOT BEEN DETAINED BY INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES. KREIMAN WAS APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN ALL THESE REPRESENTATIONS.

5. EVENING JULY 23, FAMILIES RECEIVED FIVE TELEPHONE CALLS IN WHICH THE BUDNIKS SPOKE TO THEIR WIVES AND MOTHERS SAYING THAT THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED BUT WERE IN GOOD SHAPE. THEY THANKED KREIMAN FOR HAVING INTERVENED. AT 2:00 A.M., SATURDAY, JULY 24, ANOTHER TELEPHONE CALL WAS RECEIVED STATING THAT THE BUDNIKS' CARS HAD BEEN PARKED AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM IN SANTIAGO AND THEY WERE IN FACT SHORTLY THEREAFTER FOUND THERE.

6. THE BUDNIKS HAD STATED THAT THEY WOULD TELEPHONE AGAIN AT NOON, JULY 24. INSTEAD, AT THAT HOUR "A FRIEND" UNKNOWN TO THE FAMILIES TELEPHONED SAYING THEY WERE WELL AND MIGHT BE LEAVING FOR THE SOUTH OF CHILE.

7. KREIMAN SAYS THAT THE BUDNIKS WERE LEFT-WING SYMPATHIZERS UNDER ALLENDE, BUT HAD BEEN COMPLETELY OUT OF POLITICS SINCE THE JUNTA TOOK OVER. DESPITE THE DISCLAIMER, HE BELIEVES THEY MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF SOME GOC AGENCY; HE CANNOT OTHERWISE UNDERSTAND HOW THEY COULD HAVE KNOWN OF HIS INTERCESSION WITH THE CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES. HE HAS RECEIVED AN INDIRECT REPORT INDICATING THAT THE BUDNIKS MAY BE IN QUATRO ALAMOS (DINA INTERROGATION CENTER BUT THE SOURCE IS DOUBTFUL). KREIMAN SAID THE FAMILIES WERE NATURALLY VERY WORRIED; HE UNDERSTOOD THAT A BBDY HAD BEEN FOUND IN THE MAPACHO RIVER IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, AND THE PRESS LAST WEEK HIGHLIGHTED THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION EMPLOYEE IN AN OUTLYING SECTION OF THE CITY.

8. AFTER ASCERTAINING THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RANSOM DEMANDS, THE AMBASSADOR TOLD THE RABBI THAT THE FACTS AS PRESENTED SEEMED PUZZLING. IN ANY CASE, WHILE FULLY SYMPATHETIC WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE BUDNIKS AND THEIR FAMILIES, THE AMBASSADOR FELT THAT INITIATIVE BY HIM AT THIS STAGE WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO THE BUDNIKS -- PERHAPS THE CONTRARY. AMBASSADOR ASKED RABBI TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03     SANTIA 07253 262132Z

HIM INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

9. DURING THE CONVERSATION IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE RABBI HAS IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY OF ALERTING THE B'NAI B'RITH ORGANIZATION IN THE U.S., IF IT CAN BE DETERMINED THAT THE BUNIKS ARE OR WERE IN OFFICIAL GOC HANDS. ALL CONCERNED, OF COURSE, FEAR THAT, AS IN OTHER CASES, THE TWO MAY NEVER BE HEARD OF AGAIN.

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